

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

MAY 2008

Looking Ahead

Below is an extract of the remarks made by Ginny Thomas at the APCM on Thursday 24th April 2008.

Earlier this year three members of the PCC – Margarete Geier, Sheila Gibbs, Leo Fraser-MacKenzie – and I went to a work shop entitled ‘Breaking the Glass Ceiling’. You might think from the title that it had something to do with women breaking into the upper management structures of the church, but no; it had to do with leading your church into growth.

We’d been invited to take part in the workshop because, according to research, churches which typically have between 80-120 people worshipping together on a Sunday – which St. Mary’s does – such churches find it difficult to grow beyond that upper number.

I found the workshop disappointing for a number of reasons and I didn’t come away with any new insights or enthusiasms. But it did remind me that we always need to be looking at ourselves, questioning what we do and why we do it and if we might change things – not for the sake of change but in order to live out our calling as Christians better.

Each church was asked to send in advance its mission statement to the workshop. As you may or may not know St. Mary’s doesn’t have one because when the PCC discussed the matter nearly three years ago, we decided against it. But we did decide to have an overarching theme which is ‘Our door is open’ and settled on five key values against which future decisions and actions should be tested; Welcoming, Exploring, Respecting, Empowering and Reaching Out.

In the past year I think we have been able to keep these values very successfully in the forefront of our thinking and actions, although we should never become complacent; more can and sometimes must, be done.

In the autumn the PCC will spend a day thinking about where St. Mary’s is now and in which direction we want to move in the next three years or so. I don’t know if we will be able to break the

so-called glass ceiling but my hope is that St. Mary’s will continue to grow as it has done in the last several years, especially in its commitment to our common life and to nurturing our faith.

Ginny Thomas

The Parish Prayer Network

The Prayer Network has been functioning for several years. Some 22 people are part of it. When a request comes in to Ginny, the Parish Office, or me (as coordinator), an e-mail is sent as soon as possible to all those who have this facility; the others get a note on the next Sunday or have this mailed to them.

If you want to take part in this, or would like someone to be prayed for, please get in touch with either of the possible contacts.

About 5-6 names of the people on our list are prayed for every Sunday at the 10.30 service, but they are also all prayed for at morning and evening prayer every day.

There is also the sheet at the back of the Church on Sundays. The names on that sheet are used by the intercessor at the 10.30 service. The sheet is there for you to use. The intercessor collects the sheet during the service, so if you want to add a name, please do it as you come in, and follow it up with Ginny or me if you want any name put on the list.

Our general rule is that we pray for people with their fullname if the person has either asked for this or is aware of it, and with the first name only if someone else has asked for prayers but the person concerned is not aware of this.

Verena Tschudin

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Welcome Second Thoughts on Gift-Aid Tax-Relief Changes

We had no sooner gone to press in the March Clarion with talk of ‘unintended consequences’ and, in particular, use of the carefully-chosen phrase ‘... it would be unusual for any government to give a tax refund in respect of tax it had never received....’,

when the Government proceeded to announce that it would be doing just that, albeit only for a limited period.

Though basic-rate taxpayers will, from 6 April 2008, only pay tax at a basic rate of 20% on assessable income (instead of 22% as previously), HM Revenue & Customs will give a refund to charities for donations made under the Gift-Aid scheme over the next three years (until the end of the 2010/11 tax year) **as if the rate had remained at 22%**.

A hand-out on the subject gives an example of a Mr A (or maybe a Ms B) who gives £100 a month to the church (this is rather at the higher-end of the giving spectrum, it should be said!).

If Mr A (or maybe Ms B) were a basic-rate tax payer (at 22%) prior to 6 April, the £1200 pa donated would be the net income deriving from gross income of £1538.46 and the refund claimable by the church would be £338.46, i.e. 28.2% of the net amount contributed.

If the donor were a higher-rate tax-payer, HMRC would refund a further 18% (£276.92) of the gross figure, but this would be given back to the donor by means of an eventual adjustment to the tax liability for the year in question. The donor would end up having given a net £923.08 to provide the sum of £1538.46 to the church, so the 'multiplier' in this case would be no less than 67.7% instead of 28.2%.

From 6 April onwards

If Mr A (or Ms B) were a basic-rate tax-payer (now enjoying a rate of 20%), the £1200 pa donated would be the net income deriving from gross income of £1500 and the refund claimable by the church would be £300 supplemented, for three years, by transitional relief of 2%, taking the figure back up to £338.46 i.e. still 28.2% of the net amount contributed. From 6 April 2011, however, other things being equal, the refund will drop to one of 25%.

If the donor were a higher-rate tax-payer, HMRC would now refund (to the donor, eventually) a further 20% (instead of 18%) of the gross figure, i.e. £300. The donor would end up having given a net £x to provide the sum of £y to the church, so the 'multiplier' in this case would for the next three years be z, i.e.

$x = 900$, $y = 1538.46$ (as before), $z =$ an extraordinary 70.94%!

The new arrangements mean that a higher-rate tax-payer could be said to be better off inasmuch as a given donation to the church costs less. However, after the three years have elapsed, the donation will

be worth less to the church, as will donations by basic-rate tax-payers.

Apologies if the above appears a little indigestible. Expect further comment in three years' time, if not before!

John Barker

St Mary The Boltons Summer Fair **Saturday, 21st June 2008, 2pm - 5pm**

Please tell all your families, neighbours and friends!

The fair is now fast approaching and the organising committee (Fiona Brown, Carolyn O'Driscoll and Charlotte Wilson) would very much now appreciate definite offers of help on the day (including setting up and tidying up afterwards) and promises of donations. We will not be able to accept any items in the church *until the week before the fair in June*, but if everyone could start thinking about how they could help and if they have any items to donate that would be greatly appreciated. If anyone knows that they have items they wish to donate but cannot bring to church themselves please let the committee know and we can arrange for them to be collected nearer the time.

The Charities We Are Supporting. As in past years, the fair is in aid of two charities, one international and one national. This year, the organising committee has chosen to support International Health Partners (UK) and The Universal Beneficent Society. International Health Partners (www.ihpuk.org) is a medical charity that helps distribute medicines and healthcare in disaster and war torn areas and the developing world. The Prince of Wales is IHP's patron. The Universal Beneficent Society (www.u-b-s.org.uk) is a national charity that assists those aged 65 and over (regardless of race, religion or background) who live below the poverty line and who are often severely isolated.

Donations of Goods. In particular, we are looking for donations for the following stalls:

- Bric à brac (good quality items, BUT NO CLOTHES OR ELECTRICAL ITEMS, PLEASE)
- Secondhand books (no magazines, periodicals or textbooks, please)
- Tombola prizes (these are mostly in the form of bottles)
- Raffle prizes
- Children's lucky dip items
- Cakes and jams
- Children's' toys in good condition for toy stall

Silent Auction. We are hoping to run a Silent Auction again this year after it proved so successful at last year's fair. We will need donations to form the lots. These should be something unusual that people cannot ordinarily be able to do and more importantly something people will want to bid for! Examples include a tour around the BBC, a day's fishing or shooting, concert or opera tickets, tickets to a sporting event, a signed football strip or anything else that is "special". If you could offer something like this, please let the committee know as soon as possible!

Help on the Day. We would very much like help with the following on the day itself:

- people to assist with the set-up and take-down of tables, chairs, and general tidying up of the garden and kitchen, etc.
- people to help run the various stalls.

Christian Aid Week – Collecting at Gloucester Road Station

Joanna Hackett, our Christian Aid Rep, is away on St Mary's Pilgrimage over Christian Aid Week and is therefore looking for some volunteers to collect money at Gloucester Road Station on Friday 16th May. If you can give as little as half an hour of your time on the day (or indeed if you can give more and would like to take on the organization/collection rota!), Joanna would be delighted to hear from you. All the literature and equipment is provided and Joanna will happily talk any volunteers through the format of the day in advance.

If you can give any time on 16th May please contact Joanna on 07720 850 482 / joanna@awberymorris.com or speak to John in the Parish Office. Please help make St Mary's contribution to Christian Aid really significant this year.

May's Year Mind

George Godbolt
Frances Vernon
Grenville Lake
Ronald Palin
Charles Tait
Jean Garraway
Richard Dowbiggin
Rosemary Hulse
Martin Hulse
Edward Hamilton

PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held at the church on Thursday 8th May at 7.30pm

Operatic Offering

John Barker is appearing as part of the Manor Light Opera Company's production of 'The Mikado'

Performances are taking place from Wednesday, 28 to Saturday 31 May 2008 at 7.45 pm at The Lund Theatre, University College School, Frognal, Hampstead NW3 6XH. Tickets £14 (Wed £12). Concessions available.

Tickets are available from John on 020-8571-0737

Thursday Lunch Club

The speaker on Thursday May 8th will be Michael Farr the world expert on Hergé and TinTin. The title of his talk will be

"TinTin strides into the 21st century"

Do please join us. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church

ASCENSION DAY

'When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight' (Acts 1.9)

Ascension Day is one of the six principal feasts of the church's year. It falls forty days after Easter Day and marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. This year it falls on **Thursday 1st May**. There will be a **Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm**. Please join us as we celebrate this important feast.

Your Comment?

Over Lent we had three images for comment and discussion. We are going to continue with this and would ask you to make comments on cards provided – a manual blog!

The images this month are from an artist called Bryan Pearce. Bryan was born in St Ives, Cornwall in 1929, a sufferer of the then unknown condition Phenylketonuria, which affects the normal development of the brain. Encouraged by his mother who was herself a painter, and then by other St Ives artists, he began drawing and painting in watercolours in 1953. From 1953 to 1957 he attended St Ives School of Painting under Leonard Fuller. Now one of the country's foremost living naive painters, Pearce is well known for portraying the local St Ives landscape and still-life compositions in oil, conte, pen and ink, and pencil.

The images will be up for one month, and next month we ask for you to submit images for us to comment on.

Contributions for the June Clarion should be sent in to the church office by 23 May

ST MARY THE BOLTONS CALENDAR MAY 2008

SERVICES AND READINGS

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

4.30pm Evening Prayer

The meeting room at the back of the church is available for people with pre-school children. There is a baby changing facility in the wheelchair accessible toilet in the hall.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Usually Morning Prayer is said at 8.30am (Eucharist on Feastdays) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays except Public Holidays. Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist

READINGS in May

Thursday 1 May

Readings at 7.00pm

Ascension Day

Acts 1. 1-11; Ephesians 1. 15-end;
Luke 24. 44-end

Sunday 4 May

Readings at 10.30am

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1. 6-14; 1 Peter 4. 12-14, 5. 6-11;
John 17. 1-11

Wednesday 6

Readings at 7.00pm

Acts 20. 28-end; John 17. 11-19

Sunday 11 May

Readings at 10.30am

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2. 1-21; 1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13;
John 20. 19-23

Wednesday 14

Readings at 7.00pm

No Mid Week Communion
John 15. 9-17

Sunday 18 May

Readings at 10.30am:

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-end; 2 Corinthians
13. 11-end; Matthew 28. 16-20

Wednesday 21

Readings at 7.00pm

Helena, Protector of the Holy Places
James 4. 13-end; Mark 9. 38-40

Sunday 25 May

Readings at 10.30am:

First Sunday after Trinity

Leviticus 19. 1-2, 9-18; 1 Corinthians 3.
10-11, 16-end; Matthew 5 38-end

Wednesday 28

Readings at 7.00pm

1 Peter 1. 18-end; Mark 10. 28-31

Sunday 1 June

Readings at 10.30am

Second Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 11. 18-21, 26-28;
Romans 1. 16-17, 3. 22b-28;
Matthew 7. 21-end

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays 9.30am Mothers & Toddlers

Thursdays 9.30am onwards Fabric Group

Saturdays 9.15am onwards Gardening Group

Sundays Sunday School in term time

May

Sunday 4 Parish Lunch

Thursday 8 12.30pm Midweek Monthly Thursday Lunch

Thursday 8 7.30pm PCC

Sunday 11 Traidcraft

Sunday 11 2.30pm Baptism Stella Jones

Sunday 25 2.00pm Baptism Lucas Mead

Sunday 25 3.00pm Baptism Peter Hunt

DIRECTORY

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gabby@stmarytheboltons.org.uk (day off: Tuesday)

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Verger / Caretaker David Ireton

020 7244 8998 / 07881 865386 (day off: Wednesday)

Parochial Church Council Officers

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